WHEREAS Governor's Executive Order S-13-08 directed state agencies to consider a range of sea level rise scenarios for the years 2050 and 2100 to assess project vulnerability, reduce expected risks, and increase resiliency to sea-level rise; and

WHEREAS the 2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy call for all state agencies responsible for the management and regulation of public health, infrastructure or habitat subject to significant climate change should prepare agency-specificy adaptation plans, guidance, or criteria; and

WHEREAS climate change in California during the next century is expected to shift precipitation patterns, accelerate sea level rise and increase temperatures, thereby posing a serious threat to California's economy, to the health and welfare of its population and to its natural resources; and

WHEREAS Assembly Bill 32 requires the state of California to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Conservancy adopts the following Climate Change Policy.

Delta Conservancy Climate Change Policy

The Conservancy developed the following climate change policy to guide it in promoting actions that will increase the resiliency of the Delta to climate change. This is achieved through the development, establishment and support of projects that have the capacity or increase a system's capacity to adapt to climate change or to mitigate for climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The Conservancy believes regional economic health is linked to the vulnerability of the Delta to climate change impacts and that strengthening the economy of the region will help the Delta to adapt to future conditions resulting from climate change.

The Conservancy is committed to establishing and maintaining strong partnerships with federal, state, and local governments, private business and landowners, and non-governmental organizations to further develop and implement mitigation and adaptation strategies over time.

The Conservancy encourages projects that are resilient to climate change. Such projects may be full-scale, pilot or demonstration projects containing robust and innovative adaptation measures and strategies that minimize the effects of climate change. All projects should be consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation and strategic plan.

The Conservancy uses the best available science in identifying climate change risks, adaptation strategies, and mitigation opportunities. The Conservancy understands that data continue to be collected and that knowledge about climate change is evolving. As such, the Conservancy's Climate Change Policy is a living document that will be periodically updated to integrate relevant new information and data.

Carbon Management

The Conservancy envisions carbon management as a holistic approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the impacts of climate change in the Delta through a variety of strategies.

1. Climate Change Research. When appropriate and consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation, the Conservancy will support priority research projects that are targeted to increasing understanding of climate change impacts to the Delta, support vulnerability assessments, quantify carbon sequestration benefits of habitat enhancement and restoration projects, agricultural practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and projects that demonstrate the effectiveness of adaptive management strategies.
2. Education, Outreach and Guidance. To the extent feasible with staffing and funding limitations, the Conservancy will collaborate with others to provide current information and guidance on the latest relevant climate change information and best management practices.
3. Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Conservancy staff will work with applicants to identify, evaluate, and incorporate reasonable measures to reduce or avoid the greenhouse gas emissions of Conservancy-funded projects. The Conservancy will encourage use of best management practices and innovative designs that reduce or avoid greenhouse gas emissions and, as possible will support the development of such practices and designs through funding and other actions.
4. Carbon Credits. The Conservancy will develop a policy that ensures quantifiable emission reductions generated from Conservancy funded projects will meet stringent standards for certification and verification of atmospheric benefits produced. The Conservancy shall fund projects that support the development of carbon credits that meet the requirements of AB 32.
5. Coordination. Climate change adaptation strategies will be coordinated with the California Air Resources Board's AB 32 Scoping Plan process when appropriate, as well as with other local, state, and national efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
6. Carbon Reduction and Offset. Conservancy staff will continue to measure, verify and report its overall greenhouse gas emissions with the goal of continued reduction; and will explore opportunities to offset emissions from Conservancy operations.
7. Transportation. Conservancy staff will, where feasible, attempt to reduce their work-related greenhouse gas emissions from travel, through the use of public transportation, carpooling, bicycling, fuel-efficient vehicles, clustering meetings and events, and using phone- and web-based conferencing technologies.

Adaptation Strategies

Sea-Level Rise. To meet the requirements of Executive Order S-13-08, the Conservancy will consider the range of sea-level rise (SLR) values presented in the Interim Guidance Document (CO-CAT 2010) and shown in Table 2 of the California Legislation and Policies section of this document to assess project vulnerabilities and potential impacts for projects that have the potential to be affected by sea level rise. The Conservancy understands these SLR values will be revised over time. When assessing potential impacts, the Conservancy will consider the timeline of the project and the adaptive capacity of the project to respond to SLR. The consequences of failing to consider SLR or underestimating SLR for a particular project will depend on the adaptive capacity and the potential impacts of SLR to public health and safety, public and private investments, and the environment. The Interim Guidance Document describes the amount of risk involved in a decision as dependent upon the consequences and the likelihood of realized impacts that may result from SLR. And realized impacts depend on the extent to which a project integrates an accurate projection of SLR. The Conservancy will avoid using values of SLR for project planning that will result in high risk.

Climate Change. For projects that have the potential to be affected by climate change impacts, the Conservancy will weigh the risk of climate change impacts to the project with the economic benefit of the project to the region. Potential climate change impacts in the Delta that may affect projects the Consevancy's invests in include, but are not limited to, increased air, soil and water temperature; flooding; degraded water quality; declining crop yields; new disease or pest invasion; and invasive species.

Adaptation Strategies. Applications are encouraged for, but not limited to the following types of projects or project elements:

a. Innovative projects pertaining to any of the Conservancy's mandates that incorporation features that are resilient to climate change or increase the adaptive capacity of the area to potential future impacts from climate change;
b. Projects that incorporate landscape level planning through the preservation or enhancement of factors that support the migration and survival of native species and ecosystem processes to support greater long term biodiversity.
c. Projects that protect and enhance floodplain corridors to reestablish hydrologic connectivity between rivers and their historic floodplains and that can accommodate increased flooding;
d. Riparian protection, enhancement, and restoration projects that allow for riparian corridors sufficient to accommodate increased flooding, and provide other benefits such as increased shading to moderate water temperature increases;
e. Protect, maintain, and/or establish buffer lands, such as open space, habitat, or agricultural lands, adjacent to tidal wetlands to allow tidal wetlands to migrate landward in response to climate change;
f. Conservation, restoration and enhancement of habitats and land that sequester carbon, including working landscapes, tidal wetlands, managed wetlands, estuarine scrub/shrub, and riparian habitats;
g. Delta island subsidence reversal and land accretion projects to reduce the risk of levee failure;
h. Reduce flood impacts through levee improvement to protect farmland and reduce damages to Conservancy investments;
i. Projects which incorporate efforts to prevent the introduction or spread of invasive species, which may be accelerated by climate change.

Adaptive Management

Given the uncertainties associated with climate change related impacts on natural resources, restoration that accommodates or adapts to climate changes is more likely to succeed. A robust adaptive management plan and long-term monitoring will be key components. The Delta Reform Act requires that ecosystem restoration actions in the Delta include a formal adaptive management strategy (Water Code section 85308(f)). The Fifth Staff Draft Delta Plan describes a nine-step adaptive management framework (Delta Stewardship Council 2011). The three broad phases and their respective steps are described below:

- Plan (define/redefine the problem; establish goals and objectives; model linkages between objectives and proposed actions; select and evaluate research, pilot, or full-scale action);
- Do (design and implement action; design and implement monitoring plan); and
- Evaluate and Respond (analyze, synthesize, and evaluate; communicate current understanding; adapt).

Restoration projects and other applicable projects funded by the Conservancy shall contain an adaptive management plan consistent with the adaptive management framework described in the Delta Plan.

Supporting Information

Over the last half of the twentieth century changes in the climate patterns of the western United States have been observed that are attributed to greenhouse gas emissions from human activities (Barnett et al. 2008; IPCC 2007). These patterns are mirrored in California's changing hydrology and include increasing winter and spring air temperatures and extended growing seasons (Cayan et al. 2001), a greater proportion of precipitation falling as rain rather than snow (Knowles et al. 2006), less snowpack on mountain ranges (Mote 2003), and earlier snow-fed streamflows by 1 to 4 weeks (Stewart et al. 2005). The earlier onset of runoff may also be accompanied by increases in interannual variation and the magnitude of peak runoff events (Maurer 2007). These climatic variations are expected to continue into the twenty-first century even if greenhouse gases are substantially reduced and will be experienced as larger and more sustained long-term trends (IPCC 2007).

The Greenhouse Effect and Climate Change

The Earth's temperature is regulated by a process commonly known as the "greenhouse effect."In this process, heat emitted by the Earth's surface is absorbed by greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere. As the atmosphere warms, it in turn radiates a portion of this heat back to the surface. The most abundant greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone.

Climate change is a shift in the typical weather in a given region. Measurements of weather characteristics, such as temperature, precipitation, wind patterns, and storms can be used to assess changes in climate. The Earth's climate has always been, and still is, constantly changing. The climate change we are seeing today, however, differs from previous climate change in both its rate and its magnitude.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in the Fourth Assessment Report concluded that average temperatures in the Northern Hemisphere during the second half of the 20th century were likely higher than any other 50-year period in the last 1300 years. They additionally reported the present atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide are higher than ever measured in the ice core record of the past 650 thousand years and the average rate of increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide over the period from 1960 to 1999 was at least five times larger than over any other 40-year period during the two millennia before the industrial era (IPCC 2007).

There are both human and natural causes of climate change. The energy balance of the Earth-atmosphere system is influenced by changes in atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases and aerosols, in solar radiation, and in land surface. Radiative forcing is a measurement of these changes and is used to understand how human and natural factors can contribute to warming or cooling (IPCC 2007). The IPCC Fourth Assessment Report analyzed radiative forcing from human and natural sources and concluded that: (1) most of the observed warming over the past 50 years is very likely due to human contributions to greenhouse gas concentrations; (2) carbon dioxide is the most important anthropogenic greenhouse gas; and (3) the primary sources of increased carbon dioxide concentrations are from fossil fuel use and land use change, while those of methane and nitrous oxide are primarily due to agriculture. The IPCC further concluded that human activities have influenced ocean warming, continental-average temperatures, temperature extremes, and wind patterns.

Emission Scenarios

While there is agreement that the planet is warming, the degree and timing of this change is less certain. In order to predict future climate change, it is necessary to know how much greenhouse gases are emitted into the atmosphere in the future and the response of climatic, oceanic and terrestrial systems to increasing atmospheric concentration of these gases. To address this uncertainty, the IPCC Special Report on Emissions Scenarios (SRES) developed a range of potential scenarios for future greenhouse gas emissions based on different social, economic, demographic, environmental, and technological developments (IPCC 2000).

The A1 scenario is characterized by a global population that peaks in mid-century, rapid economic growth, and accelerated introduction of new and more efficient technologies. There are substantial reductions in regional differences in per capita income and increased cultural and social interactions. This scenario is further divided into three categories based on energy sources: fossil fuel intensive (A1FI) – the highest emission scenario, non-fossil fuel energy sources (A1T), and balance across all sources (A1B).

The A2 scenario, medium-high emission scenario, describes continuously increasing population growth, slow regional economic growth, slower technological growth than other scenarios. The underlying theme is preservation of local identities and self-reliance.

The B1 scenario, the lowest emission scenario, describes the same population growth rate as A1, but with rapid changes in economic bases that are less material intensive, and the introduction of clean and resource-efficient technologies. There is an emphasis on environmental sustainability and global solutions.

The B2 scenario depicts a future with continuously increasing global population, but at a rate lower than A2. There is an intermediate level of economic development and technological change is less rapid and more diverse than in the B1 and A1 scenarios. Local solutions to economic, social, and environmental sustainability are the emphasis of this scenario.

In the Fourth Assessment Report, a warming of about 0.36˚F (0.2˚C) per decade is projected for the next two decades over a range of SRES emission scenarios. Even if the concentrations of all greenhouse gases and aerosols were maintained at 2000 levels, a further increase of about 0.2˚F (0.1˚C) per decade would be expected (IPCC 2007). As shown in Table 1, global average temperatures are projected to increase from 3.2 to 7.2˚F (1.8 – 4.0˚C) by the end of the 21st century. Even if greenhouse gas concentrations are stabilized, anthropogenic warming and sea level rise is projected to continue for centuries due to the time scales of climate processes and feedbacks.

Table 1. Projected Temperature Change

Scenario	Temperature Change (Degrees at 2090-2099 relative to 1980-1999)			
	Best Estimate		Likely Range	
	˚F	˚C	˚F	˚C
Constant Year 2000 Concentrations	1.1	0.6	0.5 – 1.6	0.3 – 0.9
B1	3.2	1.8	2.0 – 5.2	1.1 – 2.9
B2	4.3	2.4	2.5 – 6.8	1.4 – 3.8
A2	6.1	3.4	3.6 – 9.7	2.0 – 5.4
A1F1	7.2	4.0	4.3 – 11.5	2.4 – 6.4

Adapted from IPCC 2007.

Sea Level Rise

There are two major processes by which the volume of water in the global ocean is increasing. First, thermal expansion, where a warming atmosphere is causing the ocean to warm and water expands as it warms. Second, warmer temperatures are melting glaciers and continental ice sheets. Over the past century, sea levels have risen about 8 in (20 cm) along the California coast, similar to global mean sea level increases (Cayan et al. 2008a). The rate of global sea level rise has risen significantly in recent years and it is expected to continue to increase through the 21st century (IPCC 2007).

Future sea level rise due to thermal expansion and some components of melting ice can be projected. However, future contributions to sea level rise from the melting of the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets could be significant, but current models are unable to satisfactorily quantify the rate of discharge from these ice sheets. Excluding these contributions, global sea level is projected to rise 10 to 23 in (26 to 59 cm) by the end of this century for the highest emissions scenario (A1F1) and 7 to 15 in (18 to 38 cm) for the lower emissions scenario (B1) (IPCC 2007). If recent observations in ice discharge rates were to scale up in proportion to future global temperature change, the upper bound of sea level rise projections could increase by 4 to 8 in (10 to 20 cm) (IPCC 2007).

Another approach to projecting future sea level rise was developed using the calculated relationship between global mean temperature and sea level. This method was further refined and when applied to observed data of sea level and temperature for 1800 – 2000, the calculated values were found to very closely match the observed values (Vermeer and Rahmstorf 2009). Using the IPCC temperature projections over a range of climate scenarios from the Fourth Assessment Report, Vermeer and Rahmstorf (2009) estimate sea level to rise 32 to 70 in (81 to 179 cm) above 1990 levels by 2100. These projections do not include rapid ice flow dynamics. It is not known if the ice-melt contributions to sea level rise contained in the last 120 years of observational data is sufficient to model future contributions. Another notable aspect of these projections is the time lag between emission reductions and a response in sea level rise, which suggests that emission reductions earlier in this century will be much more effective in slowing sea level rise than reductions later on.

Sea Level Rise and Extreme Events

The Delta is subject to high river discharge and storm surge, water that is pushed inland by the force of the winds from a storm and results in higher water levels. These two factors can severely impact the levees that protect the Delta, as the frequency of large storms is directly related to the frequency of levee failures (Florsheim and Dettinger 2007). Increasing sea level rise exacerbates the impacts of high tides, storm surge, and freshwater floods (Cayan et. al. 2008a). Rising sea levels combined with tides, storms, or climatic fluctuations, such as El Niño/Southern Oscillation events, will result in high sea level extremes and the frequency of these extremes may increase if storms become more frequent or severe as a result of climate change. Extreme sea levels can result in salinity intrusion into the Delta. The greatest impact to the Delta will occur when extreme sea levels and freshwater floods coincide. The increase in the length of time levees are stressed by high water levels will significantly raise the likelihood of failure (Cayan et al. 2008b). During the 1997/98 El Niño event non-tide water levels in portions of the Delta remained above 16 in (40 cm) for longer than 12 hours (Bromirski and Flick 2008). As the magnitude of future sea level rise increases, the frequency and magnitude of extreme events will escalate, as can be seen in the 20-fold increase in extreme tides since 1915 as measured at San Francisco (Cayan et. al. 2008a). Because processes in the Bay-Delta and global climate systems are complex and interconnected, climate changes effects are uncertain and surprising and compounded responses may occur (Dettinger and Culberson 2008).

With sea level rise the pressure on existing levees will increase and lead to a greater risk of breaches. The potential for levee overtopping would also increase (Knowles 2010). This has implications for managed wetlands behind levees, such as the Suisun Marsh. A portion of the marsh is already subtidal. However, the majority of the Suisun Marsh would be in the subtidal zone under a 39 in (100 cm) sea level rise (Knowles 2010). While wetlands have the ability to accrete organic and mineral sediment, current inorganic sediment supply may not be sufficient to prevent the shallowest areas of Suisun Bay from getting deeper, even under a moderate rate of sea level rise (Ganju and Schoellhamer 2010). Absent significant accretion, the seasonal gravity draining of leveed wetlands, managed as waterfowl habitat, would become impossible (Knowles 2010).

The influence of sea level rise and resulting pressure on the levee system in the Delta is further exacerbated by subsidence. Mount and Twiss (2005) estimate the anthropogenic accommodation space, or the area in the Delta below sea level that is filled with neither water or sediment, will increase to more than three billion cubic meters by 2050. While about 30% is due to sea level rise, the remaining anthropogenic accommodation space is due to subsidence from oxidation and compaction of organic-rich soils.

Salinity in the Delta is expected to significantly increase due to sea level rise and island flooding (Lund et al. 2008). With sea level rise the ocean pushes its higher-salinity water farther into the Delta. At one foot of sea level rise, water in the Delta may be of low enough salinity for irrigation during the growing season. However, higher levels of salinity in the southern Delta, especially in the fall, would significantly increase the costs of drinking water treatment. With three feet of sea level rise this water may not be suitable for irrigation.

Climate Change Impacts in the Delta

In addition to sea level rise and extreme climatic events there are other potential impacts to the Delta from climate change. To better understand how future climate patterns may change, results from global climate models are “downscaled” to a finer resolution. This process helps correct some biases in areas like California that have complex landscapes that cannot be adequately represented at the coarse scale of global climate models (Cayan et al. 2008b).

Cayan et al. (2008b) evaluated different climate change model simulations from the IPCC Fourth Assessment to estimate future climate changes in California. In each simulation temperatures in California warm significantly by 2100, with increases from approximately +2.7˚F (1.5˚C) under the lower emissions B1 scenario to about +11˚F (6˚C) in the higher emissions A1F1 scenario. Human-induced climate changes are expected to progress rapidly (Dettinger and Culberson 2008). This is illustrated by the projected changes in probabilities of exceeding various annual-temperature increases in each decade of the twenty-first century, based on an ensemble of 84 projections from 12 climate models (Dettinger 2005). By the year 2030, almost no years will be cool compared to the twentieth century. Projected consequences of these temperature increases include further declines of snow accumulation, reduced viability of many species of fruit trees, increased range of agricultural pests, decreasing hydropower generation, increasing fire frequency, and greater concentrations of air pollutants (Cayan et al. 2008c).

In the Delta, similar changes may be expected. Cloern et al. (2011) simulated the B1 emission scenario using a model with low sensitivity to GHG emissions and the A2 emission scenario (medium-high emissions) with a medium-sensitivity model. In both scenarios, air temperatures in the Delta increase steadily, but the rate of change is more rapid in the A2 scenario than in the B1 scenario. Precipitation continuously declines through the end of the century in the A2 scenario. While there is no obvious trend in precipitation change in the B2 scenario, this projection shows large interannual variability, which includes years of extreme high precipitation and multi-year drought. As with precipitation, unimpaired runoff and snowmelt declines in the A2 scenario. Runoff displays the same large interannual variability as precipitation in the B2 scenario. As with state-wide patterns, there is a shift toward runoff occurring earlier in the year.

These climate and hydrologic projections were used to assess how habitat quality will be altered by climate change. Water temperatures in the Delta will increase steadily in both scenarios, with more rapid increases in the A2 scenario. Lethal temperatures for both Chinook salmon and Delta smelt will occur more frequently and the timing of spring spawning temperatures will shift earlier in the year (Cloern et al. 2011, Wagner et al. 2011). Managing for these increased temperatures will be more challenging as decreasing snowmelt runoff reduces the amount of cold water available in upstream reservoirs. In addition to temperature changes, aquatic species will be affected by the change in water quantity. In the A2 scenario, the frequency of spring floods with the duration needed for successful spawning and rearing of Sacramento splittail decreases (Cloern et al. 2011).

Another indicator of habitat quality, suspended sediment supply, is projected to decrease in both future climate scenarios, which will increase the vulnerability of tidal marshes and mudflats to sea level rise (Cloern et al. 2011). Decreased sediment supply also has implications for native species, such as the Delta smelt, that are adapted to turbid waters. Conditions for nonnative species will also become more favorable as temperatures increase.

Not only will climate change have ecological consequences, agriculture will be affected as well. Irrigation demand will increase to meet a higher evaporative demand, the occurrence of agricultural pests will increase, and rising temperatures will have a direct effect on commodity quality and quantity (Hayhoe et al. 2004). Dairy production in California is projected to decrease by as much as 22% by the end of the century under the high emission scenario. Wine grape quality is affected by extreme temperatures during the ripening period. Across the range of emission scenarios, wine grapes are projected to ripen one to two months earlier and at a higher temperature, leading to degraded quality (Hayhoe et al. 2004).

Carbon Emissions in the Delta

Agricultural land use practices in the Delta have oxidized more than two million acre-feet of peat soils over the past century. This has led to subsidence down to 20-25 feet below sea level on many islands in the Delta (Merrill et al. 2010). These soils continue to oxidize from current agricultural land use practices, emitting about 4.4 to 5.3 million tons of carbon dioxide annually. This represents approximately 1% of California's total emissions, with California being the twelfth-largest emitter of carbon in the world (Merrill et al. 2010).

While the Delta is a source of carbon emissions, it has the potential to sequester carbon as well. Research conducted in the Delta over the past fifteen years has shown that native tule wetlands have the ability to capture carbon at very high rates and, in the process, accrete soil that reverses subsidence (Merrill et al. 2010). Executive Order S-3-05 calls for California to reduce greenhouse gas emission to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. Projects that sequester carbon in the Delta can contribute toward the State reaching this goal and have the additional benefit of reversing subsidence and reducing pressure on existing levees.

California Legislation and Policies

The state of California has adopted a wide variety of laws and policies targeted at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and addressing the potential impacts from sea level rise (SLR). Below is a summary of key climate change laws and policies pertinent to the Delta.

Executive Order S-3-05

This order calls for the State to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and to reduce GHG emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. Additionally, this order established the Climate Action Team (CAT) for State agencies. The CAT is chaired by the Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA).

Assembly Bill 32 (2006)

The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) set the 2020 GHG emission reduction goal into law. It directed the Air Resource Board (ARB) to develop a scoping plan to identify how to best reach the 2020 limit. AB 32 also directed the ARB to adopt regulations requiring the mandatory reporting of GHG emissions and to identify and adopt regulations for discrete early actions to reduce GHG that could be enforceable on or before January 1, 2010.

On October 20, 2011, the ARB adopted the final cap-and-trade regulation. Rules for quantifying offset credits have been developed for livestock projects, ozone depleting substances projects, urban forest projects, and U.S. forest projects.

AB 32 Climate Change Scoping Plan (2008)

This plan outlines actions to reach the greenhouse reduction goals required in AB 32. Several strategies pertinent to agriculture are encouraging investments in methane capture systems at dairies and increasing carbon sequestration.

Senate Bill 97 (2007)

SB 97 required the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to develop recommended amendments to State CEQA Guidelines for addressing GHG emissions. These amendments were to provide guidance on how to determine significance and mitigate the effects of GHG emissions. The CEQA Guidelines were amended in March 2010 to incorporate these provisions.

Executive Order S-13-08

Executive Order S-13-08 calls for the State to implement a number of actions to reduce vulnerability to climate change. This order directs the California Natural Resources Agency to request that the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) convene an independent panel to develop a Sea Level Rise Assessment Report. Prior to the release of this report, all state agencies shall consider a range of sea level rise scenarios for the years 2050 and 2100 in order to assess project vulnerability and, to the extent feasible, reduce expected risk and increase resiliency to sea level rise. Additionally, this order directs the California Natural Resources Agency, through the CAT, to develop a state Climate Adaptation Strategy.

<u>2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy</u>

This document, required by EO S-13-08, summarizes the best known science on climate change impacts to California and outlines strategies to increase California's resiliency from the impacts from climate change. Adaptive and mitigation strategies are seen as complementary and equally necessary approaches. One key recommendation is for all state agencies responsible for the management and regulation of public health, infrastructure or habitat subject to significant climate change should prepare agency-specific adaptation plans, guidance, or criteria by September 2010.

<u>State of California Sea-Level Rise Interim Guidance Document (2010)</u>

This document was developed by the Sea-Level Rise Task Force of the Coastal and Ocean Working Group of the California Climate Action Team (CO-CAT). It provides guidance for incorporating SLR projections into planning and decision making for projects in California and will be regularly revised to incorporate the latest scientific understanding on climate change and SLR. The Interim Guidance Document recommends using the range of SLR values shown in Table 2. They note that these projections do not account for catastrophic ice melt and, therefore, may underestimate actual SLR. After 2050, the three different SLR values are based on low (B1), medium (A2), and high (A1F1) emission scenarios.

Table 2. Sea-Level Rise Projections using 2000 as the Baseline

Year		Average of Models	Range of Models
2030		7 in (18 cm)	5-8 in (13-21 cm)
2050		14 in (36 cm)	10-17 in (26-43 cm)
2070	**Low**	23 in (59 cm)	17-27 in (43-70 cm)
	Medium	24 in (62 cm)	18-29 in (46-74 cm)
	High	27 in (69 cm)	20-32 in (51-81 cm)
2100	**Low**	40 in (101 cm)	31-50 in (78-128 cm)
	Medium	47 in (121 cm)	37-60 in (95-152 cm)
	High	55 in (140 cm)	43-69 in (110-176 cm)

Source: State of California Sea-Level Rise Interim Guidance Document (2010)

Other recommendations include consider the project timeframe, adaptive capacity of the project, and risk tolerance when selecting SLR estimates; coordinate with other state agencies when selecting values of SLR and, where appropriate and feasible, use the same projections of SLR; future SLR projections should not be based on linear extrapolation of historic sea level observations; consider trends in relative local mean sea level; consider storms and other extreme events; and consider changing shorelines.

<u>Resolution of the Ocean Protection Council on Sea-Level Rise (2011)</u>

This resolution states that state agencies should incorporate consideration of the risk posed of SLR into all decisions regarding areas or programs potential affected by SLR. State agencies should follow the recommendations described in the Interim Guidance Document developed by the CO-CAT and any subsequent guidance documents. State agencies should assess potential impacts and vulnerabilities over a range of SLR projections, including analysis of the highest SLR values, and should avoid making decisions based on SLR values that would result in high risk.

Acronyms

-Under development-

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